

Initiatives on Reducing Environmental Factors Affecting Human Health

Objective: You are to analyze grassroots initiatives that are intended to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health (e.g., community cleanup of local aquatic or terrestrial environments; class action lawsuits against major polluters) [AI, C]

Sample issue: People from the Grassy Narrows Reserve in Northern Ontario were experiencing chronic health problems. They commissioned a study, which found that many animals and fish that were part of a traditional diet were contaminated with mercury and heavy metals. Guidelines were proposed to limit consumption of the affected animals, and thereby improve people's health.

Sample questions: Are there any grassroots groups in your community concerned with the state of the environment and its impact on human health? What types of actions do they take? What action has been taken by the Bulkley Valley and Lakes District Airshed Management Society to help reduce the impact of particulate matter in air on the health of local people? What is the Yellow Fish Road program, and how does it try to reduce the number of contaminants in local water sources?

Secondly, evaluate the effectiveness of government initiatives that are intended to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health (e.g., Ontario Ministry of the Environment smog advisories; provincial laws regulating drinking water; WHMIS regulations on hazardous material) [AI, C]

Sample issue: To protect the health of people who live on the street, the City of Toronto issues heat and cold alerts, opening cooling centres or heated shelters where people can escape extreme weather conditions. However, not everyone is aware of these services, and there are not always enough spaces to meet needs.

Sample questions: Why does the Ontario Ministry of the Environment issue smog advisories? Why are there concerns about the water quality in many First Nations communities in Canada? Why did the water treatment plant in Kashechewan, in Northern Ontario, fail to protect the community from contaminated water?

Use appropriate terminology related to human health and the environment, including, but not limited to: *contaminants, heavy metals, air pollution, and pesticide* [C]

Your work should be concluded in a professional report that is three to four pages in length (single-spaced). A title page should precede the report. The major aspects of your report should also be compiled into a fascinating PowerPoint presentation that is thoroughly prepared and includes pictures, figures or videos.

Report due date: Report and Presentations are due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Presentations will begin on Wednesday, March 6.